



An Esteem program

# BULLETIN

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*Building with Becky program participants measuring twice.*

## Building with Becky launches first carpentry program

As part of International Women's week Esteem Women launched its new program, *Building with Becky*, at College of the North Atlantic in Clarendville. *Building with Becky* is a program that introduces girls to various skilled trades.

On March 3rd and 4th, eleven grade six girls were given the opportunity to spend time learning about carpentry. The girls began by drawing a plan for the building of their own birdhouse and learning how to apply scale in drawings. Once this was completed, they attended a safety lesson and instruction on proper use of the required tools as well as the personal protective equipment that they would be required to wear for the next two days.

As part of the planning and to help them with creating their design, the girls learned about what kind of birds used various size and shapes of bird houses. Once the in class portion was completed, the girls were very excited to take their drawing and transfer their design to the piece of pine that would eventually become their birdhouse. The rule measure twice and cut once was practiced to ensure accuracy.

The first tool to be used was a handsaw to cut out the pieces for the birdhouse. The wood was sanded before paint colours were chosen. Great care and attention went into the painting of the individual pieces before they were assembled.

The next tool to be used was the drill so that the painted pieces could be screwed together to complete the project. Needless to say it was a great way to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD). This spring Chickadees, Wrens and Swallows will be greeted by an increased availability of beautiful and colourful first-class accommodations to call home.



Girls participating during various stages of project in the Building with Becky program.

The girls wrapped up their two days by learning how to use a jigsaw as they cut out pieces of plywood required for their next project: a doghouse. In the coming weeks the girls will be back in the carpentry shop to sand, assemble and paint a doghouse which will be given to the Clarendville SPCA to be used in a fundraising event.

*Building with Becky* thanks all of the girls who participated in the project as well as guidance counselor Collette Oldford Short. A sincere thank you to Maisie Caines, Tracy Holloway, Paul Tilley, Wayne Pike and College of the North Atlantic for their support and for opening the carpentry shop as we introduce these young girls to the possibilities available in skilled trades.



Girl participants and program coordinator and instructor Mary Clarke during the launch of the Building with Becky.

## WHAT IS *Esteem*?

ESTEEM Women - Educational Science, Trades, Engineering, Exploration and Mentoring programs for girls and women is a newly formed organization that was created to encourage young women to enter and remain in the skilled trades, engineering and Technology fields. ESTEEM acknowledges several other organizations that have similar goals and aims to work with these community partners and fill the gaps in programming and achieve even greater results. ESTEEM currently offers two programs including GoSETT and Building with Becky.

